# CONFIDENTIAL
# UNITED STATES
# INFORMATION AGENCY

# INCOMING TELEGRAM

AMP (128) 163 FBI A5



ACTION OFFICE PDM-01
INFO ACOC-01 DSO-02 DIS-01 PD-02 NEA-03 P-01 PG-01
/012 A1 21

P 260748Z JAN 87
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO RUEHIA/USIA WASHDC PRIORITY 5804
INFO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 2294
RUSBPW/AMCONSUL PESHAWAR 7348
BT
C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 ISLAMABAD 01847

USIA

FOR P/DH, INFO P/G, NEA
STATE FOR NEA/PAB, NEA - PLEASE PASS AMB. DUNBAR

E.O. 12356: OADR
SUBJECT: AFGHAN MEDIA PROJECT: IN THE HEADLINES AGAIN

1. THE FOLLOWING PAKISTAN PRESS INTERNATIONAL (PPI) STORY APPEARED IN THE PESHAWAR FRONTIER POST JANUARY 25 UNDER THE HEADLINE "PHOTOGRAPHY COURSE FOR AFGHANS":

2. BEGIN TEXT. QUOTE. THREE INSTRUCTORS OF BOSTON UNIVERSITY, AN INDEPENDENT EDUCATIONA
INSTITUTE OF
THE USA, HAVE ARRIVED IN PESHAWAR TO CONDUCT A SIX-WEEK COURSE FOR 60 AFGHAN NATIONA
S IN THE BASIC
KNOWLEDGE OF PHOTOGRAPHY, VIDEO-FI
M MAKING AND
COLLECTING NEWS REPORTS. BOSTON UNIVERSITY HAS RECENTLY BEEN PROVIDED A FUND FOR THE PROJECT BY THE APPROVAL OF U.S. CONGRESS.

3. MR. NICK MILLS, CHIEF INSTRUCTOR AND LEADER OF
THE THREE-MEMBER TEAM TOLD PPI THIS MORNING THAT THERE WILL BE TWO SESSIONS, THE FIRST PROBABLY WI
L
START BY MID-FEBRUARY NEXT UNTIL THEN PRELIMINARY ARRANGEMENTS WOULD BE MADE HE SAID. UNDER THE PROPOSED ARRANGEMENTS AN AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY WOULD BE SET UP WHICH WOULD BE HEADED BY A DIRECTOR OF THE SEVEN-PARTY A

LIANCE WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEWS AGENCY, FILM OF NEWS, PHOTOGRAPHS AND VIDEO-FI
M
WOULD START POURING IN FROM AFGHANISTAN WITH CONTINUITY AND EXPEDITIONESS.

4. THE SEVEN-PARTY ALLIANCE OF THE AFGHAN MUJAHIDEEN IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BANNED THE PROJECT AND WOULD SUBJECT A BAN ON THE NEWS AGENCY IN DUE COURSE OF TIME TO GO AHEAD WITH THE PROJECT. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS CONSIDERING TO GIVE SANCTION TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THIS NEWS AGENCY. END QUOTE. END TEXT.

5. A SHORTENED VERSION OF THE STORY ALSO APPEARED ON THE FRONT PAGE OF PAKISTAN TIMES THE SAME DAY AND SINCE PPI IS CIRCULATED NATIONWIDE, WE SUSPECT THE STORY MAY HAVE APPEARED
SEWHERE TOO.

6. THIS TYPE OF PUBLICITY RUNS COMP
ETE
Y COUNTER TO
THE UNDERSTANDING WE THOUGHT WE HAD WITH NICK MILLS ABOUT THE NEED TO KEEP A LOW-PROFI
E -- PARTICULARLY
DURING THE PRESENT "INTERIM" PERIOD. DICK HOAGLAND HAS DISCUSSED THE MATTER AGAIN WITH NICK WHO, WHILE ADMITTING HE PROBABLY WENT TOO FAR, SAID THE REPORTER PRETTY MUCH HAD THE ENTIRE STORY A
READY FROM BU VIA
NEWSWEEK COL
EAGUES IN THE U.S. (SEE PARA 8.)

128 NSA R

7. THE STORY IS TROUBLESOME ON SEVERAL COUNTS. THE CHANCES ARE GOOD THAT IT WILL BE REPLAYED OR COMMENTED UPON BY PAPERS FRIEND
Y NEITHER TO US NOR
THE MEDIA PROJECT -- OR THAT IT COULD BE PICKED UP IN A PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION. IN EITHER CASE, THE RESU
T
WILL BE DISCOMFITURE FOR THOSE PAKISTANI OFFICIALS WHO HAVE BEEN TRYING TO HELP US MOVE THE PROJECT
BT
#1847

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RELEASE

Released by the
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Under the Freedom of Information
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# UNITED STATES
# INFORMATION AGENCY

# INCOMING
# TELEGRAM



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26/0757Z

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/013 A1 21

P 260748Z JAN 87
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO RUEHIA/USIA WASHDC PRIORITY 5805
INFO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 2395
RUSBPW/AMCONSUL PESHAWAR 7349
BT
C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 ISLAMABAD 01847

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ALONG AND THE POSSIBILITY OF FURTHER SET BACKS OR
DERAI
MENT ALTOGETHER.

B1 - R3

8. MORE DISTURBING STILL IS THE FACT THAT THE PPI
REPORTER WHO CONTACTED MILLS TURNS OUT TO BE A
KARACHI-BASED NEWSWEEK STRINGER WHO TOLD MI

S THAT
HE IS WORKING ON THE PAKISTAN END OF A
ARGER STORY
FOR NEWSWEEK ON THE NEWS AGENCY PROJECT. THIS WAS
CONFIRMED TO ME AND DICK HOAGLAND BY CBS' S KURT
LOHBECK. WHO HAS JUST RETURNED FROM THE STATES AND
WHO SAID WE CAN EXPECT ANOTHER WAVE OF PUB
ICITY FOR
THE MEDIA PROJECT AND BU. ACCORDING TO
OHBECK. NOT
ONLY DOES NEWSWEEK HAVE A STORY IN THE WORKS. BUT
BOTH NIGHT
INE AND CBS' S WEST FIFTY-SEVENTH STREET
ARE WORKING ON REPORTS ON THE PROJECT.

CENSE
← AS SHOWN

9. WE HAVE FEW ILLUSIONS THAT YOU CAN STOP SUCH
STORIES. BUT CONTINUE TO BE DISMAYED AT BU' S
PROPENSITY TO SHOOT ITSE
F (AND US) IN THE FOOT.
OBEE
BT
#1847

GARBLED TEXT